

War Limits the 'Hams' 7-22-39 but They'll Never Quit

Most Milwaukeeans have yet to feel any definite effects of the European war, but the trouble has already closed in on the "hams" who spin short wave radio dials far into the night.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., has cautioned all amateurs to confine their talks to the weather, distances, power of equipment, personalities and such innocuous subjects. War talk is out.

Members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc., report that it is easy to abide by such warnings, because they cannot contact many foreign stations, anyway. They cannot, in any event, converse any more with "hams" who live in the belligerent countries. The belligerents automatically closed all amateur radio when war broke out.

Wave Lengths Dead

The radio amateur who wants to talk to foreign "hams" now must contact operators in South America, Rumania, the Scandinavian and Asiatic countries, or South Africa. The foreign wave lengths of amateurs are dead elsewhere.

Robert Schmidt of 802 W. Rock pl.—W9VDY to the "hams"—does about as much talking with foreign operators as anybody in town. He has been unable to talk to any operator in the belligerent countries since the war began—except in one instance.

"That was an operator in Germany, about two days after war was

declared," said 19 year old Robert. "I don't know how he happened to be on; I didn't ask him. He did tell me, though, that he and a couple of other 'hams' were about the only ones on in Germany at the time."

Sees Increased Interest

Will the loss of foreign contacts cause the "hams" here to lose some interest in their hobby? Not at all, according to Louis A. Wollaeger, 1606 Martha Washington drive, vice-president of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

"Milwaukee and other American 'hams' probably will have renewed interest now," Wollaeger said. "They realize they have a hobby which they might lose in the event of war involving the United States. This will spur them to greater activity with domestic operators."

Every Thursday night at the public museum, the Milwaukee "hams" gather for shop talk. The uninitiated wouldn't get much out of the discussions. The "hams" talk of 10 meter crystals, drift, 579's and such technicalities.

The club has some 70 members, who pay dues of 25c a month.

For Jim

W9IZQ

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